

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Remediation
Bureau of Eastern Remedial Action, Room 242
50 Wolf Road, Albany, New York 12233-7010
Phone: (518) 457-3976 FAX: (518) 457-8990



December 10, 1998

Mr. James Colter
Remedial Project Manager
Department of the Navy
Northern Division
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
10 Industrial Highway
Mail Stop #82
Lester, PA 19113-2090

Dear Mr. Colter:

RE: Calverton - NWIRP Site # 153136
Draft Phase 2 RCRA Facility Investigation Report

The Department has reviewed the Draft Phase 2 RCRA Facility Investigation report for the Calverton facility, dated January 1998, we have the following comments:

Page 1-5: Facility History: A brief description of the recently completed transfer of the facility to the Town of Riverhead needs to be included in this section.

Site 1 - Northeast Pond Disposal Area

2-27: The report indicates that the finding of thallium in groundwater samples may be naturally occurring and not a site contaminant. Note that thallium bromide and thallium iodide are used for infrared radiation transmitters in military detection devices. Due to the toxic nature of thallium it is advisable to do further records search to determine if this element was used at Calverton and to clarify if it is indeed a site contaminant.

2-32: Table 2-3 indicates that semi-volatile tentatively identified compounds (SVOC TICS) were detected. The values of the detections should be included in Table 2-3, a finding of a significant level of SVOC TICS may require additional sampling or a further review of lab results to determine the compounds present.

2-58: Conclusions pertaining to the NE Pond Disposal area appear to be contradictions. Item 5 indicates that the results of the benthic macroinvertebrate investigation indicates a normally functioning ecological community in the pond. Item 6 indicate that eroding contaminated fill material and sediments adjacent to the fill are continuing to impact ecological receptors in the pond. Further clarification is required.

Site 2 - Fire Training Area

3-1: A statement needs to be added to this section indicating that this area is listed in the NYSDEC's Registry of Inactive Waste Disposal Sites as a Classification 2.

3-16: The statement on this page that the results of Geoprobe sampling indicate that "...the extent of groundwater contamination is defined and does not extend off site" is questioned.

The report indicates that two methods of groundwater sampling was used. The appendices with sampling logs does not indicate the amount of water purged from the temporary wells prior to sampling. It is possible that not enough water was purged from the boring to pull in representative formation water. If water was used during drilling it is possible that the groundwater adjacent to the bore hole was diluted and not yield a true sample reflecting actual conditions.

Temporary well FT-TW-03 revealed VOC contamination at a depth of 70 feet below the water table (1,1DCA (31ppb)), yet the temporary monitoring wells installed outside the fence line are only drilled to a depth of 40 feet below the water table. It would appear that the wells installed outside the fence are not deep enough to confirm or deny the presence of VOC's at greater depths. This indicates the need to install vertical profile wells in this area.

Figure 3-1: The individual compound and associated laboratory value should be listed on the Figure.

Table 3-1: Values should be labeled as being reported in parts per billion.

Site 7 - Fuel Depot Area

Figure 4-1: There is an inconsistency in presenting data on the various Figures in the report. Values of contaminants found in groundwater samples in this figure are reported down to 1ppb, while in figure 4-2 values are reported only if they exceeded MCL's. Individual compounds and there associated values should be listed in Figure 4-1.

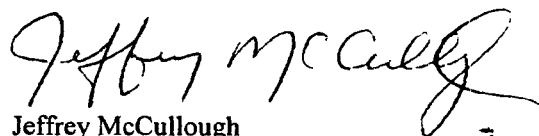
Figure 4-2: It would appear by the groundwater sampling results and construction details that FD-MW-07 possibly was not installed deep enough to intersect the plume. The underground storage tanks in this area were placed between 15 to 20 feet below the surface (page 4-20) but the total depth of FD-MW-07 was 21 feet, approximately 200+ feet down gradient of the tank area. This well is appears to possibly intersecting the upper fringe of down gradient contamination and may be indicated by the findings of 4.2ppb of TCE and 2ppb of 1,1,1 TCA, in FD-MW-07.

In general, the report would be enhanced if cross sectional view of each area were added, this would give a better overall picture as to the total extent of the contamination.

The aforementioned comments reflect the Departments major concerns regarding this report, additional comments may be raised during future TRC and/or RAB meetings. If you have any questions, please call me at (518) 457-3976.

Sincerely,

c: M. Chen/File
S. Farkus (Reg 1)
W. Gilday (NYSDOH)
J. Pim (SCDHS)



Jeffrey McCullough
Federal Projects Section
Division of Environmental Remediation